

Name	Library	Your Library Story <i>Let us know how the library impacted your life.</i>
Nancy	Village Library	When my children, now 38 & 34, were small we would walk to the Bethany Library pulling my sons little red wagon. All three of us would check out as many books as were allowed on each of our library cards. They attribute the library as the reason they are such avid readers today.
Joe	Edmond Library	My family and I recently moved to Edmond from the Tulsa area. needless to say much of the city has taken some getting used to. The thing that has not taken any time to get used to is the public library. The Edmond library feels like home. We are always welcomed in with a smile. I walk to the library nearly every day on my lunch break to pickup books I have on hold or to do a bit of reading. It is a lovely place with a lovely atmosphere. Thank you.
Penny	Bethany Library	By the time I was ten, I'd read every book in the children's section of my hometown library. One Saturday morning, my dad took me to the library and introduced me to the head librarian. He then had her add my name to his library card, along with the instructions that I could read anything I wanted to check out. Heady stuff that--being free to roam the adult stacks. The first book I checked out was Mary Stewart's "The Moonspinners." When he died in 1995, he had books checked out from the library. When I returned them, I discovered my name was still on his library card, 32 years later. Dad endowed me with a life-long love of reading--I still read more than 200 books a year. Along with the joy of getting lost in a story, those days spent with library books sparked my imagination and now I write (and am published) books for others to read. If not for him and the library, I wouldn't have my dream career as a novelist.
Crystal	Downtown Library	<p>My first memories of going to the library was with my older sister. She was 15 years older and often took charge of me when our mother was working. There wasn't much money in our household, and my sister was a constant a reader, so that meant weekly trips to the library.</p> <p>I was very young and these are some of my earliest memories so all I have are fleeting flashes and hazy impressions of red brick with green vines. The Fourth Street building that served northeast OKC back then didn't survive the ravages of Oklahoma City's Urban Renewal efforts. Our weekly pilgrimages were soon to end anyway. It wasn't long before we moved to a neighborhood too far away from the library for even the most determined walker.</p> <p>I rediscovered my library nearly eight years later, when yet another move brought me to a neighborhood within walking distance of the library's new location, this time on NE 36th St. I was the new kid on the block and the odd girl out at my new school. Lonely and friendless, my Saturday trips to the library were a lifeline. I don't think there was a Saturday that I left before closing. One Saturday I noticed a car following me at a distance.</p> <p>I always left the library with a stack of books and it was my habit to periodically sit on the curb and rest my arms on the walk home. I recognized the people in the car as the librarians I had just recently waved goodbye to. I don't know if they always watched me walk safely home or if that was the only time.</p>

		<p>I lost touch with my library in my later years, but once during a break in college I stopped in to check out my library's new location, this time on NE 23rd and MLK. It was there, while reading a magazine, I overheard the veteran librarian telling the new librarian a story about me. I hadn't realized that she recognized me. Perhaps she recounted the time she tried, unsuccessfully, to steer me back toward the teen section and away from the DH Laurence.</p> <p>In the many years since then, the Library has maintained an important place in my everyday life. My four year old son and I participated in the book pass between old Metropolitan Library building and the new. Even now, he regularly volunteers at the summer reading table during summer break. I still walk to the library, only this time as an escort for my daughters 2nd grade class, as the John Rex Elementary School kids make their own weekly pilgrimages to the library.</p>
Lisa	Belle Isle Library	<p>I grew up in Denton, TX but I think library stories are universal. I love that the OKC Metro Library System expanded the summer reading program to adults. Some of my fondest memories were from the summer reading programs. Attending readings from special guests like local celebrities, authors, and special programming with exotic animals and other guests. I used to compete with my best friend to reach each new level faster and see who could get more points or read more pages each summer. I'm thrilled to bring back those fun feelings back and encouraging a new generation of readers.</p>
Sharon	Edmond Library	<p>Books! and Reading are my passion. It began in my mother's lap more than 65 years ago... She continued to fuel that passion by our weekly trips to the Capital Hill Public library. I think I always was able to bring 10 books home..Could that have been possible...So many books for a young child to carry...but I remember those weekly trips. I think I was always a good reader. However, it wasn't because I was taught phonics, because in those days, it was, "Dick and Jane" and Spot, etc. I learned to be a great sight reader... I didn't learn about phonics until I became a teacher myself years later in college... Lucky to become a student of great professors at NWOSU, Dr Berrends and Steaver, who taught me how to unlock the code for children who struggled with the printed word. I became a reading specialist and teacher of children with special needs. Then my passion for reading became my passion to teach children. I can only hope that I reached some of those precious students. My lifelong passion! Reading! The best gift that my mother gave me!!</p>
Donna	Ralph Ellison Library	<p>I love reading,started as a small child in school I spent most of my free time in the library. As an adult I still have a great love for books, you can travel to different places and learn something about so many cultures by just reading a book. I have been reading to my grandchildren sense the day they born, I hope they grow up to have the same love for books, that I have.</p>
Charles	Choctaw Library	<p>Some of my favorite memories of libraries is when we lived in Kerrville , Texas Around 1966 to 1968.W lived a few blocks north of the library located on the Guadalupe River. My Grandmother instilled in me the joy of reading as a young boy. As I got older school got in the way of reading and grades suffered. The Library in my eyes was huge, beautiful and full of more books in one place. I used to go to library when I could as it was a refuge from my home life. My father didn't care for me to read so I did most of my reading at the library. They had a reading area that</p>

		overlooked the river which added the atmosphere of the books being read. After my daughter was born I encouraged her to read, and she gets more books read then I do.
Tarah	Edmond Library	My library love affair begins during my childhood in Tulsa. I'm an only child, so books were welcome escapes into the world of different types of families and lives. Before I could even read, I would surround myself (literally) with books - opening picture books and standing them up on the carpet, then lying down in the middle of them all. Everywhere I looked was another story, another scene, another place for my imagination to whisk me away to. Nowadays, years later, the library is still my happy place. I try to make it at least once a week, even though I'm in graduate school and finding time to read for leisure is challenging. I make that time, thanks to my library. I maintain a wishlist of books to read, as well as a calendar of release dates. I'm able to read those books and more thanks to digital reserves and Overdrive! I know that a large aspect of my personality was formed thanks to a love of books, fostered by libraries wherever I have lived. I am so grateful to call OKC home now, and to have a great library to brag about to my family all over the country!
Kim	Northwest Library	I can't remember not going to the library. When I was a kid, we didn't have Google or Wikipedia- at best, we had Encarta on a CD. If I wanted to know about bats? Library. Greek Mythology? Library. I remember walking out of the library more often than not with a stack of books nearly taller than me, pulled from the kids section, YA section, even a few scant selections from the adult section. Libraries gave me the ability to learn more than a classroom could teach. They allow me, still, to explore writers I'd have never heard of otherwise, to expand my vocabulary, my knowledge, my understanding of people two states away or two hundred years ago. Having access to a library from birth (it feels) is likely why I ended up with a degree in English.
James	Nicoma Park Library	We always took our boys into the Nicoma Park Library. The lady that used to work there and that retired last year was so great. She knew all four of my boys names and was just so excited to see us in there. My boys love to read but I think that this helped further their enjoyment in reading. She was so helpful and we enjoyed going to the library. My boys wanted to go all the time.
Lauren	Downtown Library	Although I grew up loving to read the library was a place I visited infrequently. Throughout my school years I had the antiquated notion that the library was only full of dry research materials and didn't offer anything modern and entertaining. It wasn't until about 5 years ago that I revisited the library after a long hiatus and discovered I was terribly wrong in my assumption. I am constantly surprised, excited and invigorated by what the library has to offer. The vast array of materials with titles both expected and unexpected, lively community programs, online resources and the library staff and space itself. Five years after my rediscovery of the library I am still infatuated!
Amy	Northwest Library	As I grew up in a small town in NW Oklahoma, I remember very fondly, the story hours! Now as a mother, who doesn't read as much as she'd like, I have really enjoyed the Metropolitan Library programs and story times for the children! What a blessing <u>Rondia Banks</u> has been to my family! I believe I read more and play more with my children because of my time with her.

Staci	Edmond Library	<p>We have been abundantly blessed by the Edmond Library in the past several years. Six years ago, we decided to home educate our children. This was a huge decision that impacted our lives in many ways. I don't know that we would have been nearly as successful without the Edmond Library!!!! The access to amazing educational books is astonishing!!!! I love that we have access to several libraries worth of books at one convenient location!!! I also love the option to suggest books to the library. It has been an amazing journey in many ways, but would have been much more difficult without the amazing resources available through the Metro Library system!!!</p>
Earl	Village Library	<p>The library is a tactile manifestation of hope and promise. Within its columns and rows are seemingly infinite catalogs of knowledge, entertainment, and surprise. Indeed, to quantify its impact on my life is a daunting task. I first encountered the library as a child. Like most young people, I was introduced to the library by the school librarian. These many years later, much escapes me concerning that introduction. I retain no remembrance of the librarian's name or features. The library itself, its layout and design, are scant and vague in my mind's eye. Still, I do retain a pervading message that was fated to me in that first introduction.</p> <p>The message imparted to me made clear the replete possibilities upon becoming a lover of reading. Indeed, I learned that if one willed, there is little to nothing that could prevent one from achieving everything one desired. I am exceedingly thankful for hearing and retaining that message. Truly, that first encounter with the library, and its inherent message, precipitated numerous future encounters. I can recall visiting the library in primary school, high school, undergraduate school, and graduate school. While my scholastic career is complete, I am forever a student. The library is my classroom, and its books are my tutors.</p>
Latasha	Village Library	<p>Growing up, I practically lived in the Library. I would go to the library every day after school. I used to live on the south-side of Oklahoma City, so I would go to Southern Oaks library back then. The books that I would check out the most when I was a pre-pubescent teen were "The Giver," "Lord of the Flies," and "Flyy Girl". The library enabled me to be the book addict that I am today. It is my mission to share my love of literacy with as many people that I possibly can. Now as an adult, I am an English teacher at a local metro middle school. I run a Page-to-Screen book club for my students on Wednesdays after school. Book club is a place for them to build their comprehension skills and gain a more extensive vernacular in an inviting and social atmosphere. Oftentimes young people associate reading with work and testing, I am hoping that through book club, they will come to accept reading as the enjoyable leisure activity that it is.</p>
Diane	Belle Isle Library	<p>Library essay Life lesson taught by my Mom, "Never leave home without a book because you will never know when you will need it" As long as I can remember books have been a part of my life. My Mother was a reader so I guess it is in my genes. Each week we would walk to our local library to choose our new books. This was always a fun time for me. The colors, the print, and sometimes even the smell of the books would draw me in.</p> <p>I couldn't wait to get to the shelves to see what was new or even to find my old friends. Caps For Sale, Make Way For Ducklings, The Story of Ferdinand, Blueberries for Sal. Learning to read opened so many doors for me. I couldn't get enough. When I was in sixth grade I volunteered in my school library. My job was to help the younger grade children find books they were looking for. I was also able to recommend books to the students based on</p>

		<p>his/her interests. This continued on into middle and high school. When I became an adult my love of reading never diminished but unfortunately my time did, although I was never without a book.</p> <p>When I married my husband was in the Air Force. In each new community we moved to there were two places that I sought out first. A church and the library. Both places sustained me in places where I knew nobody. Once again my old friends, books, were there for me. When I started having children, I have 3, I passed my love of reading on to them. They now have children of their own and they are passing the love of books onto their children. When my husband and I moved to OKC in September of 2014 Belle Isle became our library of choice.</p> <p>I love this branch and use it much for printed books as well as electronic books. The services and options the library provide for the community is extensive. Not just books but movies, music, research materials as well as archived materials. The best part of all of this is that it is free and open to ALL regardless of the differences in their lives. So remember, never leave home without a book, you never know when you will need it.</p>
	Midwest City Library	<p>When I first moved to OKC, almost 20 years ago, one of the first things I did was come into the library to get my library card. I have always felt at home in a library. I would spend many a lunch hour either at the library or sitting in the park reading my newly acquired books. Now, I have had the privilege to watch my 13 year old and 3 year old grow up loving books and loving the library. It makes me smile when my 13 year old knows some of the librarians by name. My 3 year old jumps up and down excited when I say, let's go to the library today! It's not just the books and stories that they love. It's the smiles and friendly voices they receive when they come. It's the fun events that the library plans so well. I do so love the library!</p>
Daniel	Warr Acres Library	<p>I graduated from university in 2011 and moved to Oklahoma City for my first post-graduate job. I was on a tight budget, and the local public library provided a myriad of entertainment options. I checked out plenty of new release CDs and DVDs, and most importantly I rediscovered my love of reading that had fallen dormant during my time as a full-time student. I've been out of school several years now, and I still visit the library several times a week.</p>
Kaylee	Downtown Library	<p>As a little girl growing up in a small town, my weekly trips to the library were an important part of my life. The library was a gateway to the romance and adventure that the world of books provided, but after I graduated high school and moved to Oklahoma City for college, I forgot that the library existed. (Sad, but true.)</p> <p>In 2012, I met a boy who read more than I did and loved the library, and after spending a few date nights there, I got a library card and have been a member since then. I had no idea that the library offered so many services that made sense in the 21st Century -- from ebooks to music downloads and digital magazines, the library is as relevant today as it was 50 years ago, if not more so. The boy that reintroduced me to my first great love, the library, is now my husband, and we still spend many date nights searching for our next favorite book at the Oklahoma City Public Library.</p>
	Del City Library	<p>My mother was a library science major at OU, graduated in 1940, so I was taught to have respect for books and stories early on. The most important involvement I had with the library was when I was unemployed for 3 years</p>

		and set a goal of reading all of this century's Pulitzer winners for fiction. Of course the library made these books available to me, and being able to reserve them online helped me work toward my goal efficiently.
Mikel	Northwest Library	<p>I didn't grow up having a "functional family." I know, who did? Mine was extraordinary though. My very young parents divorced when I was 4 and started trying to reclaim their youth, leaving me with daycare, grandparents, outside roaming the neighborhood, or alone in my room a lot. One thing that I vividly remember during those times are books and the smell of the library. At home, I had a record player that read me my favorite stories and an aunt that loved to buy me those recorded books. So, even though there was no adult reading to me, I still learned to love the books and the adventures that I could go on just by opening a book. My mother started attending college classes too, so I roamed up and down the aisles and sat on the children's carpet many evenings while she studied. It was a wonderful, safe place to be.</p> <p>When I started school, I remember my first grade teacher, Mrs. Culver, starting the school year by having our name on our desks and a big stack of our books sitting on top. I didn't know how to read yet, but I knew a few words. She told us by the end of that school year we would be able to read all of those books and do all of the work inside! Talk about excited! Then we got to go to the school library and check out books. I was amazed that they trusted me borrow any book I wanted for a whole week and I held that trust sacred. Sure enough, Mrs. Culver taught me to read and soon I was off, reading everything I could find.</p> <p>In 6th grade, I was one of 4 students "hired" by our school library to put the books back on the shelf as they were returned and help the younger grades with checking out their books. That was a big honor. I had the responsibility of learning the Dewy Decimal System so that I could do the job right, and it really made me feel useful and proud to be able to help.</p> <p>As I grew older, I grew rebellious and got married at a very young age. Being married at a very young age, we didn't have a phone, a tv or barely any food to eat, but we did live near the library. We could walk to the library and read magazines, check out books, look through the microfiche and be around people trying to better themselves. The librarians never treated me differently than any other patron and at the time, that meant more to me than they could have ever known.</p> <p>I studied to take my G.E.D. and read about resumes and college majors. I didn't know how any of that even worked! When my children were born, I made sure that I read to them every night, even when they were first born. It was important to me that they all inherit the love of books. Despite my circumstance, I made it into college. I knew it was possible, because I had read all of those stories about people who had prevailed. There was no reason why I shouldn't! The college library was the center of my life. All of my research and access to the world outside of my town was through that library. I had no computer or typewriter at home and all papers had to be typed or printed. The internet was also becoming a necessity at that time and I could access my email from the library.</p> <p>I couldn't have possibly graduated without it! After graduation I became an art teacher. My students, of course, were made to research in the library. I tried to instill in all of my students that as long as they knew how to research and had access to a library there was nothing they couldn't learn. As a teacher, the library was my summer retreat. I saved all of the good fiction I wanted to read until summer and then relished reading into the wee hours! The</p>

		<p>library was also how I supplemented my lessons during the school year. There was music available to play from different cultures, videos on different artists and time periods, and the ability to integrate different subjects into my own!</p> <p>After the birth of my 4th child, I decided to take a break from teaching. We visited the Warr Acres and Bethany children's programs and visited the library to play be around other kids and parents and check out books weekly. When the Northwest Library opened we started going to it more frequently. My children have all participated in summer reading programs and get their library cards as soon as they are able. It's a source of pride to get that first library card. We even check out movies for movie night, my teenager checks out every CD that interests him and uses Freegal to download music, we have used the database for test preparation and car repair. I am constantly amazed by what all our Metropolitan Library System offers us just for having a library card!</p> <p>I am now in my second career act and I have opened a home bakery. I started out baking pies, just because I wanted to eat good pie, and that led to sharing pies, which led to people wanting to buy pies, so of course I needed to research the best practices. As I said earlier, my family when I was young was quite dysfunctional, baking from scratch wasn't a gift I was given from years in the kitchen with family. I only knew how to bake using boxes and cans. I also didn't know anything about business so I had to research that too! I have learned every single thing I need to know about baking and business from the library. My home bakery has been up and running for 2 years now and I still have a load of books checked out at all times. I can truly say that without the library I would not be who I am today, even though I'm a constant work in progress!</p>
	Northwest Library	<p>As a child the library was my favorite place to go. At that time it was the Bethany Library since we lived down the street, near the YMCA and there was a park what more could a kid ask for. You could loose yourself in the books in the summer and find the resources you needed during the school year. But my best memories were introducing my children to Belle Isle Library when they were children taking them to make Valentines, Turkeys and hear stories. The memory that sticks out the most was taking the two of them to an old fashioned Taffy Pull and watching the excitement on their faces when they participated. Thinking back I believe it was a 89'er Celebration activity as they were dressed like pioneers. Taffy is hard to get out of long hair and cowboy hats. Now, I take my grandchildren to the Northwest Library and they are loving it as much as their parents. All I can say is thank you Oklahoma Metropolitan Libraries for always being in our family life.</p>
Autumn Rain	Warr Acres Library	<p>A few years ago, I wasn't a big reader but a teacher required us to read a certain number of mintues a week. About a year later, I found that the school library was pitiful, so my dad had to take to the library by our house during the summer to find something to read. As I went into my next year of school, I found nothing to read at the library my classes went to, so I went to the Warr Acres library and it blew my mind, (almost in reality) I fell in love with the library, I'd always loved reading and books, so I went to the library a few times a month. My dad and I actually, ran almost all over town trying to get the books we wanted. I love the library and I feel that if books could love, they would love me dearly. I take care of books the best way I can and try stop others from hurting and damaging books themselves. The library has tought me how to find the books I would like to read or have to read. Another good thing the library has impacted my, by making me not feel bad by asking for help to find whatever I'm looking for.</p>

Ronald	Capitol Hill Library	Thanks to the Metropolitan library system I have been able to find material not only for myself but for my whole family
Robyn	Midwest City Library	<p>I have a lot of great memories of visiting Southern Oaks Library. As a child, I loved the puppet shows when we got the chance to go. I loved when my mom would help my older brother do research for a paper. That meant hours lounging around the children's section reading as many books as I wanted. I don't think I ever asked to go home. I have those special parents who never said no to books, especially my dad. Recently, I was actually surprised to learn that I'm missing a few Dr. Seuss books! How did that happen?</p> <p>My favorite memory is the day I got my own library card! It was actually more exciting than the day I got my passport! I'm not sure how old I was; I was in elementary school I believe. I was having a sleep over and we were all getting into spooky stories so my dad took me to check out "a few". We wandered through the shelves for what seemed like forever, carefully choosing the best ones. It was so hard to put one back after I picked it up. We finally made our way to the desk with 10 or so large books, including a collection by Edgar Allan Poe. Of course, The Raven was essential. As the librarian began to check out my books, she asked for my card. For the first time, instead of using my dad's card, he asked me if I wanted my own! I tried to contain my excitement and act cool, but inside I was bubbling over with joy! It was a rite of passage for me. I was no longer a little kid. I now had my own card. I now had the power to check out any book I wanted, anytime I wanted! What an amazing thought! Through the years I've spent many hours at that library.</p> <p>I grew out of the children's fiction into the youth fiction. I've studied and written my own papers in highschool and college. I met up with friends as we discussed the happenings of our current series. I hid out as I recovered from a tragic teenage moment. I went with my fiancée (later husband) and helped him research for his papers. Now I get to take our four year old daughter. We go to story time and browse through the books of the children's section. I confess, I don't say no often when she picks out a book. We've cried a few times when it was time to return a new favorite. We don't live near Southern Oaks any more, but it almost feels like going home when I stop by. I still love to read.</p> <p>My husband and I read our Bibles together every morning and a few pages from a good book as we work to make sure that our relationship is the best possible. I read at least four books a day to my daughter. I read nursery rhymes to my four month old son and show him the beautiful pictures. Reading and the countless visits to the library have helped make me who I am. I've found new best friends both in the pages of books and in front of the shelves! What would my life be like without our libraries? I shudder at the thought.</p>
Andy	Edmond Library	I first started using the metropolitan library system when I was in college at Oklahoma City University. I started by using the library in downtown Oklahoma City. I would load up my books and all of my friends and we would go down to the library to study, read, and sometimes to not do either of those things. I would always get lost wandering down the isles of fiction. I would stop and pull out a book that looked appealing. I would admire it's cover, feel it's pages between my fingers and begin pouring through it, word by word. My friends would find me an hour or so later sitting on the floor in the middle of the isle.

		<p>My friends and I shared many fond memories with that library. Now that I'm married and have a 2 year old daughter of my own, I love loading up my family for outings to the Edmond Library. Not only do I still enjoy meandering down the isles of fiction and pouring through page after page, but I also enjoy taking my daughter into the children's area. My favorite feeling is watching her eyes light up at all the books (she really likes Fancy Nancy). To this day I am still an avid user of the metropolitan library system. I not only make several trips to the Edmond Library, but I also use the Overdrive app to read books on my electronic devices. Despite all of these amazing features, I am most thankful to have a place in our lives that will cultivate in my daughter a hunger for the written word. I look forward to many more years of outings to the local metropolitan library!</p>
Layla	Edmond Library	<p>Most people see a library as boring or for old people, but the truth is there's more to a library than meets the eye. What all the kids that are my age think today is I would do anything than go to a library, but just think about how hard it was to even get a library or what all those people how to go through so you could have the books to read at a library. In my opinion a library is that one place where you can get away from all your problems and the world's, it's the place where you can be yourself where you can be unlady like or just let it all go and put your nose in a good book. Like the help or the fault in our stars which a really great book by the way really changed my life. Anyways a library is where you CAN be a princess or a pirate or both it doesn't matter let imagination go wild. Just remember that a library isn't boring it's the place that makes you you.</p>
	Del City Library	<p>My Dad was in the Army and I grew up moving a lot. I always found the library as fast as I could. My books were my friends, no matter where we lived, they were there for me.</p>
Cecilia	Belle Isle Library	<p>The Metropolitan Library System saved my sanity, possibly my life! In 1980, I was 20 years old, a new mother of a toddler, expecting my second child. I had just recently moved to Oklahoma City from West Texas and only knew one other person -- my husband. He had a job as a truck driver for an oil field company and was gone days, and sometimes, weeks at a time. I not only had no friends, but I had no telephone with which to communicate with my family back home, I had no car, no job, no money. Basically, I had nothing and no one in my life, but my son. In April of 1980, we moved to an apartment on Exchange Avenue; with the surprise gift from my sister of a stroller, I was ecstatic to be able to explore the area.</p> <p>On one of my adventures, I strolled our way to Cow town and discovered the Wright Exchange Library! I made my way inside and knew I was in heaven! Although a small branch, the Wright Library saved my sanity by allowing me to welcome books back into my life. As children growing up in Odessa, Texas, my sister and I had made the public library our best friend, if such a thing could happen. We were happy readers, enjoying all genres; but, mysteries were our favorites, especially the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew Mysteries. With this new found love of books at our easy grasp, we were never bored. With my discovery of the Wright Library Branch, I knew I was saved -- saved from a life of loneliness in a new city.</p> <p>The young man who managed the Wright library was always very helpful to me, ordering and borrowing books from a larger branch that he didn't have there. The three years I lived on Exchange I was a constant patron at this library. This set me on a lifelong love affair with the Metropolitan Library system, which I gladly shared with my</p>

		four children and grandchildren. All of my children loved going to the library and choosing their books; they also enjoyed many of the programs offered at the libraries. I continue this tradition with all four of my grandchildren. Please allow me to say a late, yet heartfelt THANK YOU!
Zoe	Belle Isle Library	<p>I'm a life-long reader. I'm also financially responsible. Even though I was a regular library goer growing up, at some point in college (I was a lit major) I got it into my brain that I needed to purchase all of my books. Once I left college, I was broke, so I started re-reading all the books in my apartment instead of buying new ones. I was visiting with a friend one day who mentioned dropping something off at the library, and it clicked. I can check books out from the library!</p> <p>For the last 3 years, I've been a library frequenter. Between physical books, ebooks, and audio books, I usually have at least one thing checked out from y'all. What a beautiful thing that we live in a world where all it takes is a library card to know anything? I'm so grateful that, despite any financial situation I may be in, I have a safe place to go and know the joy of knowing. Thank you!</p>
	Southern Oaks Library	It makes life better for every one in the world
Mindy	Edmond Library	<p>As the daughter of an educator and a librarian, I have always felt incredibly at home in a library. The smell of bonding glue, the sound of efficient re-shelving, and the sights of glorious book jackets waiting to be plucked from the stacks brings me such a feeling of peace and calm. I grew up going to a small but wonderful Carnegie Library in my rural Kansas town. The entire world was opened to me through film strips, encyclopedias, and myriad books on any subject in which I was interested. Three years ago at the beginning of summer, my family and I moved to Edmond from St. Louis. We knew no one and with my husband working, we would be alone during the day. But I knew what to do... Five days into our arrival, we went to the Edmond branch and got library cards. The staff was friendly and helpful and the library was inviting. From there, we attended some fantastic summer reading programs which we all enjoyed. Coming to the library made our transition so much easier. So to me, it's really more than a library...it's my home away from home. And so</p>
camile	Midwest City Library	<p>The Metropolitan Library System impacted my life by giving me a chance to read free books. I can come in and find interesting new books to read and want to read more books. I mainly go to the Midwest City Library, but any library makes me feel comfortable away from other places. I especially like going to new libraries in the system that I've never been to before. Everyone that works in the system are nice and helps me with whatever I need. My Mom started bringing me to the library when I was 7. Now I'm 14 and I've been going to the Midwest City and others in the system ever since. I now read books mostly everywhere I go. My Mom used to tell me to stop reading and go to sleep, because I kept reading late at night and didn't want to get up in the morning.(I still do it)! Since I read a lot my sister and little brothers read a lot too. We check out about 40 to 60 books altogether per visit.(When the librarians see us coming they get ready to check in books so that we can check out more books). Happy birthday Metropolitan Library System! Thank you for all you do for me and everyone in the community!</p>

Amber	Ralph Ellison Library	Since childhood, books have been my source for comfort, inspiration and even an escape. Visiting the library always gives me a sense of wonder. A means to travel without boarding an airplane, or take a trip through nature's most mysterious places on earth, without the risk! I'm always grateful after my library visits. The gratitude comes from knowing I have a place, that will provide me with the opportunity to learn. Provides Internet access when I need it most, and most of all, gives my children that same sense of wonder and excitement I've always felt. Our public libraries are extremely important. Whether it be for literacy, imagination, or just a relaxed atmosphere, I thank all of you that keep our library systems functional. Our society needs it's libraries!
	Midwest City Library	The metropolitan library system impacted my life was when...i first went to the metro library,which was when i did not want to go to the library...But when i read some books i was amazed, and when i was 4 i wanted to read chapter books!now, whenever i get books from the library i get done with them after like 2 or 3 days,i really like the library and...1 more thing..... Happy 100th birthday metropolitan library system
Eileen	Midwest City Library	Midwest City Library is the best. Our Metropolitan Library System is so good I brag to all my family and friends in Oklahoma and throughout the U.S. We have access to all types of information and programs for all ages. Whether you are in good health or might need assistance all Library Staff is always willing to help you get the information you want. We are allowed to suggest books, etc to add to the Library Collection which is really appreciated. We are able to access our Library System from home or in person. Thanks for being there for us!!
	Southern Oaks Library	I spent two years in Tanzania doing mission work. I love reading, so I bought a kindle and filled it with books. The cost of books started to add up quickly, and as a missionary I didn't have the funds to keep buying books. That is when I found out you can borrow ebooks from the library. I was so excited that I could still get books! I read 105 books in my first year. I am so grateful for the library and all their services.
Dea	Village Library	When we first moved to the Village from Joplin, Missouri we were about to be first time parents. I was a kindergarten teacher about to turn stay at home mom. Reading is VERY important in our home and I had a GREAT early childhood library at home. We moved to Lawton for a few years, when we returned to the Village our family had grown and we had become a homeschooling family. And looking for a Library. We found the Village Library. The Village library is our library. We lived in the Village for 7 years walking to the Village library several times a week. It was a home away from home. When we moved further away and closer to another library, the Village was our library. When we moved even further, the Village is still our library. We know the staff. We love the history we have there. We are so grateful for the hours we have spent bonding over books and our love for our library. We are so grateful for the awesome staff there. We have visited other metro libraries and none top the staff at the Village. They are some of the sweetest and kindest people we get the pleasure of being around. When the bulk of the staff at a library knows each of your kids name (and we have a lot of them) it really shows how often we come in, but when they ask about them when they are not with them, it shows how they care about their patrons. Thanks <u>Sally, Mark, Beverly, Van, Elizabeth</u> , those I left off, and those that have come and gone :)

Wilburn	Edmond Library	<p>The Library has changed my life so much because it gives me free access to books that are sometimes nearly impossible to find. I love entering the worlds of series like Harry Potter or Clary in Mortal Instruments and even Rachel Morgan from Kim Harrison. The stories give me perspectives that I wouldn't normally have had as well as giving me different ways of situations that were previously black and white. I admire everyone who works at the library for their due diligence when I have to file an ILL because they always go above and beyond to find the book that I am looking for and ordering it for me.</p>
	Edmond Library	<p>I believe that there are many kinds of treasure to be found inside the walls of a library. Not only will you find the opportunity to pursue knowledge, but also the nurturing spirit of a gentle human, showing kindness and love to a child. So many years ago, when I was in elementary school, I knew the most wonderful librarian. Mary Prince, in my eyes as a child, was a kind, old, gray-haired woman. She wore coulotte skirts every day, usually in rusty red or olive green colors. She drove a little red mo-ped everywhere she went.</p> <p>I lived in a small town where pretty much everybody knew everybody. Mary Prince grew the most beautiful red poppy flowers and pink lady slippers in the garden beds in front of her house. As I walked past her house on my way to school each day in spring, I would admire her beautiful blooms and dream of having a garden of my own one day. One time, I just couldn't resist the temptation to pick a handful. However, when I arrived at school, of course my teacher knew from where the blooms had been plundered, and she chastised me for stealing them. I was sent to the school library to give my apologies to the kind librarian and tell her of the crime I had committed upon her garden.</p> <p>As I walked inside, the pungent smell of rubber cement filled my nostrils. And there was Mary Prince, sitting at her desk, repairing a broken binding on a used book that had been donated to our small library. Books were a precious commodity, and we were happy to have the privilege to read them no matter where they originated or what condition in which they arrived. Mary carefully fixed each book, to the best of her ability, and readied them to be shelved for the children of the school to borrow in turn.</p> <p>As I slowly crept across the floor toward the desk, the guilt of my shameful deed weighed heavy on my young soul. But as I confessed my sin to this woman, who was so delighted to serve among children in the capacity of librarian, she gently smiled at me. She knew that I appreciated her wonderful garden and, I believe, she was proud that I would love her garden so much so as to desire to pick from its bounty of blooms. However, she did ask that I save the flowers remaining in her garden so that others may enjoy them as much as I had. She was a gracious and forgiving woman with a gentle, sweet spirit. In fact, after this event, I was allowed to stop by her house and smell the flowers as much as I liked - so long as I didn't pick them. She even had my mother and I over for ice cream one evening. I believe she may have been the one who gave my mother an African Violet plant, from which my mother was able to start and grow many more throughout the years of my youth.</p> <p>So you see, it is not only the treasure of books that are to be found in the library, but rather the treasure of a kind soul who would nurture and teach young children to grow in both mind and honor and respect for humanity.</p>

	Belle Isle Library	No matter where we are, I can use the overdrive to check out books to read, books for our homeschool, books for the kids to read, and audiobooks! It's fantastic!
Pam	Downtown Library	As an only child living out in the country, books became my best friend at an early age. When I was reading, I could be anywhere at any time and not be lonely. Going into the library opened up new adventures with all kinds of books. I could spend hours browsing. The library has impacted my life in such wonderful ways and I hope that I am setting an example for my grandchildren--the love of books.
Pamela	Northwest Library	<p>One of the most pivotal days of my life was in first grade when I learned to read. My world opened up in an overwhelming way. While we didn't have many books at home, my siblings and I did have a set of three books that were arranged in such a way that the difficulty increased from nursery rhymes to what would be now known as 'young adult' novels like "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" and "Kidnapped". I read everything in those books over and over. As a 10 year old, I remember discarding my mother's copy of "Jane Eyre" in disgust when Jane (foolishly, in my childish opinion) ran away from Mr. Rochester after their thwarted wedding. She smiled and told me that I might want to finish the book; I did and it taught me to trust the author to bring a story to a satisfying conclusion.</p> <p>Once each summer we would be driven to the public library in Binghamton, New York near our home and I would be allowed to check out seven books. I would stalk the rows of books in the children's section, considering the book covers for clues while trying to find the perfect book. "My Friend Flicka", "Green Hills of Wyoming", science fiction, fantasy and fairy tales were among my chosen treasures. I think at the time books could be checked out for three or four weeks, but I had them all read before a week was up. A sense of profound loss would overcome me when the last book was closed.</p> <p>The school library became a good substitute for the public library - it was close and I was there almost every day so I always had a book to read for pleasure. Once I became an adult and was living in Oklahoma City, the library system was like a monumental gift. All of the locations available made me feel that this city appreciates people like me. While I still buy books at an abundant rate, I check out books, CDs and use e-book system for my iPad and for listening to books in my car. A cornucopia of choices - so many books, so many options. It warms my heart to see our libraries full of people. A city that values libraries is a city that is vibrant. Cheers to the Oklahoma Metropolitan Library System!</p>
Renea	Del City Library	When my computer was stolen, the library offered me the opportunity to find the research I needed and all the paper work needing to be filled out and signed was completed. I also love to get the old movies, kids movie's, and I enjoy the fact that I reserve or have books delivered to my door. I enjoy the library peace and quite it offers as well. My son enjoys the different programs offered and loves to play the computer for kids. We also attend family craft night. It affords us a way to spend time together without electronic entertainment.
Cheryl	Southern Oaks Library	I have always loved visiting the library. I am 52 years old now but can still remember the smell and atmosphere of the library when I was a child. My mother would bring me to Southern Oaks library often as a child. I could spend

		hours looking for books and sitting in a cozy corner of the library exploring them. Reading books is my passion. I have even passed it on to my daughter and grandchildren.
	Edmond Library	When I was in the 4th grade, my parents enrolled me in a start up school. While the school worked very hard to build up their library at mid-year it was still quite small. After I had read the same books dozens of times over, my mother decided it was time to take me to our town's local public library. I still remember walking through the stacks and stacks of books available to children. I checked out so many biographies that the children's librarian took my picture and wrote an article about me in their monthly newsletter. I remember my mom sitting at our kitchen table and chuckling at the newsletter. When I had my own children, I took them to the library before they could even walk. We've moved away from our hometown now, but before we moved we were best friends with our librarians, and we still keep in touch with them. We consider them part of our family. The included picture is our children's librarian and my little guy wearing hats knitted with the same yarn.
Emily	Edmond Library	The public library has had a significant impact on my life. As a kid, the library was the go-to place for books and information. Now as an adult, the library my go-to place for books and information. Yes, we have the internet, but the information on the web is not always accurate. With books at the library, you can trust the information. I am even studying to be a school librarian so I can make sure the library impacts kids like it did for me.
Mary	Edmond Library	The library has been my refuge since I was a child. Born into a family of bibliophiles, I started going to the library in Reading, PA (a library with an impressive history) before I could even read. I loved the children's section and the old stacks, the huge marble counters and the quiet that the fluttering of turned pages and hushed voices seemed somehow to respect. As a college student I found refuge in OU's library, again in the musty, secret-keeping stacks and the quiet of the great hall. Most recently I turn to Edmond's branch library, with it's sunny reading room and bustling feel of a vibrant community gathering place. The library is a safe place, a place for calm, quiet, and learning. A place of wonder, where your biggest dreams and your smallest questions can both find their footing. As my mother always told me, "A library can make any bad day or any boring place better than you think possible."
Reanna	Del City Library	When I was in middle school, I didn't have a lot of friends. I was a book worm and was always checking out books from my school library to keep me company. When I turned 13 or 14, I decided that I was tired of doing nothing during the summer. I was bored. When I asked my dad for suggestions of what to do during the summer, he suggested that I volunteer somewhere. After some research I found out that the Metro Library was looking for volunteers for their summer reading program. Not only could I spend my day sitting and reading all the books I wanted, but I could help other kids become as enthusiastic about reading as I was. For three years I rode the city bus to Southern Oaks Library to volunteer for the summer reading program. I made new friends, overcame some of my anxiety problems, and enjoyed my summer. Afterwards, I had both teachers and employers impressed that as a 13 year old, I was willing to ride the city bus during the summer to volunteer, and for no real credit. I didn't do it because I had to. I did it because I wanted to. To me, it didn't seem like anything too astounding, but now that I'm older, I can see that not many kids would do that. I enjoyed my time volunteering with the library. If I had the time now as an adult I would spend more time there. Thank you for enriching my childhood.

Emma Leigh	Bethany Library	I have many books on my bedroom bookcase and I read them all faster than I could count. When I finished them all, I found myself facing boredom until I got my new library card! It seemed you had everything! The library had all these awesome mysteries that a mystery-craver craves, like Nancy Drew, The Bobsey Twins, and the Hardy Boys. Not only did I find out the library had awesome books but the library had really cool programs, a book club, and awesome service. What I personally think is cool are the play-away and play-away view.
	Bethany Library	The Library was so awesome in college. It helped me with so many reports. Now, the Library is used for pleasure. I love the Melanie Dickerson books. I am on my second time around on reading her books. I just love it that we still have a library. I love the atmosphere of the library and they are so nice. I love the smell of books. Melanie Dickerson's books are amazing. I have learned to love to read again by reading her books. I never would have if it wasn't for the library. Thanks.
Iris	Village Library	I began going to the library as a young girl. I discovered books could take me lots of places. I have spent countless days in the library reading many books, magazines, and newspapers learning about our world. I have been able to learn how to do diferent things from reading books at the library I would not have been able to purchase. I have attended workshops, classes, and entertainment events at the various libraries. Oh and did I mention there is a great DVD and music collection to choose from. Going to the library is one of my favorite places to go.
Todd	Midwest City Library	After a long day at work, the metro library is my quiet harbor for reading and information. It's a great place for me to work on my stories either writing or research. I love the ability to request books and expand the library's resources and thus make it my own library as well.
Glenda	Bethany Library	As a junior high student I was basically a non-reader, but my English teacher took me to the school library in person to help pick out something I would enjoy. The classics were too hard. We settled upon Zane Grey's books and the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys mysteries. These captured and kept my interest so I became a reader. That was over 50 years ago. Now I read a book or more per week. It was the personal attention letting me know it was ok to pick something I enjoyed reading instead of just the "have-to's" that started my library journey.
shelby	Capitol Hill Library	My son loves curious George, ever since I got my library card I have gotten curious George books and DVD, and at first he wouldn't sit down and even let me read to him, now I can get him to sit still during almost the whole book!! He is only 2 years old, and he is starting to talk a little more now. I can honestly. Say I love going to the library with my son and picking out books and movies. It makes bonding time a little easier.
Michelle	Edmond Library	Summer Reading Program or My Summer of Great Expectations It is summer 1970. "Let's sign up for the reading contest," I tell my friend Bobbie, "They're giving away prizes!" Bobbie turns her bike around. She prefers "Hollywood Squares" and her mother's home cooking over a stodgy library and books. I, however, am the child of a working mom. There is nothing to do or eat at my house, so the thought of a cool, clean library is appealing to me. Mrs. Minchin helps me sign up. She has no faith in me winning the Johnston Public Library Summer Reading Program. I check out four books, take them home, read them, then

		<p>return them that very day. Mrs. Minchin chides me. She says I am in the 3rd grade now and that I need to read more advanced books. This cancels out Little Golden Books and "Dr. Seuss." So I skip all the way home with a spider named Charlotte and a pig named Wilbur in my hand and spend the rest of the evening entranced. Summer flies and this is my new routine, walking to the library, reading books. Sometimes I read in bed, but mostly I read cross-legged, outside under a tree.</p> <p>Sometimes it is too hot outside and the library, a stately brick building, becomes my retreat. It has tall steps and I feel important coming and going with books in hand. My friend Bobbie has long given up on me. I am too busy travelling to far off places and meeting interesting characters, all the while dreaming of the prize I will surely win. Finally summer comes to an end and it is time for the prize ceremony. My mind goes wild with anticipation. What could it be? Money? Gold medals? I have worked very hard to get to this moment and nearly pass out when Mrs. Minchin says, "And the prize for 3rd grade goes to Michelle." That's me! I wade through a sea of sunburned kids and tattered books in order to retrieve my prize, but it isn't what I expected. It's ... another book?! I feel let down.</p> <p>Like I just won a pie after a pie eating contest. I traipse home deflated, yet still proud and a little wiser. Fast forward forty-five years and I still have the book "The Derby Ram," a beautifully illustrated tall tale based on an English folk song, inscribed by Mrs. Minchin herself. I grew to love this book and have read it many times over the years. It is a favorite memento that I will always cherish.</p>
Shawnda	Bethany Library	<p>I love the metro library system. It has been such a pleasure and joy to explore my city while going to the different library locations. My kids and I have made an adventure out of it. We always pick a different library location for our Saturday outing and then choose activities around that area to explore, as well! It's been a good way to get to know the Oklahoma City area, as well as enrich our lives with literature. We love that we can check out books in at whatever location we happen to be at that weekend. Thank you for having such a rich and diverse collection of books with which to serve the Oklahoma City metro area!</p>
Connie	Edmond Library	<p>I read all the time when I have free time. The new electronic library is very convenient so my family of 6 can just log on and get a book in seconds, and we don't have to leave our house. We don't watch movies on the library site. I think books are more important, kids are constantly learning as they read. I save so much money on books since most of the ones we like to read are already on the electronic resource on the library. Having the OverDrive app on my phone is the main reason I have a smart phone, since it is the app my husband and I mostly use. When I was a teenager I remember almost everyday walking across the street to the library constantly to check out new books on my library card. Oh how time changes things. Now we can just log in and get a book or an audiobook in seconds thanks to you!</p>
jai'lynn	Belle Isle Library	<p>The library impacted my life because in first grade and kindergarten I was excited to learn to read. My reading skills helped me in learning. Now in third grade when I have parent teacher conferences, my teacher says that she has to slow down for the other kids because they don't learn it as fast as me. I get straight "A's" in all my grades. So what I am trying to say is that the library is a big part of my life. It is very fun. When a book does not have pictures I</p>

		<p>imagine that the book does have pictures. Some people say that reading is boring but I don't say that. I say that reading is fun.</p>
	Northwest Library	<p>Last year I moved to Oklahoma City for college and lived in a little apartment close to the Northwest library. I started going there right away to find books and print things out for school, but when I really fell in love with the library was when I discovered the soundtrack section. I borrowed all the soundtrack CD's I could and listened to them in my car on the half hour long drive to campus. I sang along to them and it made me so happy. I also borrowed some audiobooks and the book "the Hunchback of Notre Dame," which I loved, and discovered a lot of other books that I really liked. I also tutored a little girl in reading at the library, and it was so much fun. Thanks so much to the library for making my school year great!</p>
Emma	Village Library	<p>The library is directly responsible for helping my daughter, Emma, learn how to read and to love reading at a very early age. We go to the library at least once a week and she also used to ask me to go and read to Charlie the library dog every Wednesday night. Thank you MLS and Happy Birthday!!!!</p>
Gail	Warr Acres Library	<p>When I was in elementary school, I was bullied. A lot. My love for reading started in about third grade, when I discovered the 'Warriors' series by Erin Hunter. It sparked an inspiration for everything from my writing, to my art. The library gave me an escape into countless worlds of heros and adventures in far way lands. Within that one year, my grade rose from below average to top of my class, my reading level went from a first-graders to an upper highschool in the span of months; and it was all thanks to my local library.</p>
	Village Library	<p>In the early 1980's I decided that I had more books then needed. So thought would use the library, Went to the Bell Isle location. Went looking for the Dewey card file, It was not there. Went to the help desk, asked for the file cabinet. My voice carries, thought I was whispering, with out knowing it everyone in library heard me. The lady at the help desk jumped up and showed me how to use the computer. Was told later everyone in the building was laughing.</p>
Rebecca	Village Library	<p>I have been going to the Village Library for years even though I live in Edmond. The staff seem to know my name and have watched me as my children have been born and have grown, and they always treat them specially. The best way the library has impacted my life is that I have been able to take all four of my kids there during the day, and they have loved our trips. When they get to pick and check out books, they are so excited. I love that the library has spurred in them a love of reading!</p>
Thomas	Village Library	<p>I really like how the library does the summer reading program and gives prizes when I read. I won in a drawing once, too, and I really liked that.</p>
Caroline	Village Library	<p>I really like getting to pick out books I like and take them home!</p>
Robert	Northwest Library	<p>When I was a child, my parents usually went into "the city" on weekends. We (the children) would spend the time in the library reading and always checked out the maximum books each week and spent the week reading the</p>

		library books. The impact of the Library on my life is a lifelong love of reading and finding new information (and a lifelong love of libraries!) that started when I was a child and continue on to today.
Kristen	Northwest Library	When I was about 7, I was one of the most advanced readers in my school. The library helped me more than I could have imagined. That year, I entered the reading contest for the first time. I had more fun reading than I could have ever imagined! I read for over 36 hours that summer, which had a big impact on my reading skills. One night, my mom and dad told me we were going to the library. I was thrilled. When we got there, we went to the front desk and they told me I had won a Wii! At the time, the Nintendo Wii was the big thing. I was ecstatic! Ever since then I have read for the reading challenge every summer and improved my vocabulary and reading skills.
	Midwest City Library	Cirque Du Soleil is my library story. Before this library system I didn't check out videos or music, I just picked up books. There was a summer or two my finances wouldn't allow me to go to the movies or rent movies. While I was picking up books for school I would pick up a few videos. I always wanted to see Cirque Du Soleil and couldn't make it to a show. When I found a few Cirque Du Soleil videos at the library I was excited. I got to experience a great show and without the library I wouldn't have gotten that chance.
Laura	Edmond Library	When we first moved to the city, we didn't know anyone. My husband moved our family of six from Texas and we left all of our family and friends behind. The staff at the Northwest library was wonderful and welcomed us to each event. We quickly filled our schedule with library activities so my girls could go to playtime and storytime at the library. They made friends with some of the other regulars and looked forward to library visits each week. We are so thankful to have such a nice library around the corner from our house!
Trenna	Midwest City Library	Since I am unable to read as much as I would like to. I was introduced to audio books. In the beginning I would listen to books on CD and then found out about play way. But my newest discovery was Overdrive, Oh my goodness. I am able to download books to my tablet, a different one to my phone and even an different one to my computer as well as keep up with the different characters from each book. Now I'm able to listen to books while at work, while driving since I don't have a working radio actually i don't even listen to music anymore. and even on the plane. Thanks and appreciation to the inventor of overdrive I can still enjoy my love for books. I have even introduced some family and friends to overdrive and the feedback has been awesome.
Jason	Bethany Library	I have had a library membership for quite some time and I have always enjoyed reading. I had gotten out of the habit of extracurricular reading was in College. I was encouraged to get back into it with some book suggestions from my supervisor at the time. I was checking out books fairly regularly for a time, then my wife and I had children. Finding time to sit down and read became challenging. If it were not for the large selection of audio books available on the webpage, I would not have had the pleasure of a great many stories. I recommend this to all of my friends who have a hard time finding time to sit down and read a good book!
Jim	Edmond Library	I have been an avid reader for as long as I can remember. When my family moved to Edmond in 1977, I remember getting my library card at the Edmond branch. It was the first library card I'd ever had and I still have that original, laminated card in my wallet today! I am very appreciative of the vast collection of books available through the

		Metropolitan Library System and the willingness/ability of the library to take suggestions from patrons of books to purchase. I am also very pleased to see the library moving into the e-reader realm and I look forward to seeing many more titles purchased in both hard copy and e-reader format!
Sarah	Edmond Library	<p>My mother always told her four children that the free lending library was Benjamin Franklin's greatest contribution to America. She checked out books and read to us constantly and made sure that we were reading as well. In the 1950's, my sister and I, who were around 7 and 10, rode a bus by ourselves from northwest OKC to the downtown library. It was safe back in the old days! The building seemed huge to me, and I loved going up and down the shelves to choose a book. I also remember a wonderful librarian who read aloud to us. I believe her name was Mrs. Vanwyngarten.</p> <p>My favorite books included the Bobbsey Twins, fairy tales, classics and Nancy Drew. I read constantly and have continued my love for books over the years. All of my mother's family were readers. I remember that my Uncle Franklin always had an upstairs book and a downstairs book. Mother told us stories of her own mother's book club back in the 1920's. When it was your turn to be the hostess, you were required to write a research paper on a favorite topic to present to the group. If books weren't available from their own small library in Concord, NC, her mother received books in the mail from university libraries, and all 7 children and her mother and father waited eagerly for the books to arrive.</p> <p>We were fortunate to have wonderful school libraries in the OKC public school system, and we frequently used the Belle Isle Library when we were growing up. Mother made a weekly trip to the library and kept a notebook with a list of all the books she had read. Unfortunately when she was in her 80's, she developed macular degeneration and could no longer see well enough to read. I began to check out audio books for her, and it wonderfully filled her days as she sat and listened to so many books. She was then eager to share with me the latest book that she had just "read."</p> <p>In college, my favorite assignment was a research paper. I felt like I was on a treasure hunt as I spent hours in the OU and UCO libraries finding the materials I needed for a paper. I was always amazed at the wealth of information that was available then including newspapers, magazines, old books, and microfilm. With my own children, I continued the tradition and made frequent trips to the Edmond Library. We took advantage of the wonderful programs for children presented at the library and always signed up for the summer reading challenge with a reward trip to the OKC 89'er baseball game. Today I seldom purchase books but find whatever I need at the Edmond Library. I'm learning about downloading books and enjoy using Freegal to find free music.</p> <p>I know there are infinitely more resources that I haven't even touched. The library is truly a treasure. Thank you, Mr. Franklin, for enriching our lives.</p>
Heather	Northwest Library	I have 4 children and we LOVE the library. We have done the summer reading every year for the last 10 or 11 years (when we moved here). We did read for prizes at the Warr Acres Library 3 or 4 times and my kids love it. We've built legos (and learned teamwork), met Spoticas, volunteered during the summer, the list goes on and on. My oldest child is 17 and she was reading on a high school level in the 5th grade. My 3 younger children are following in her

		<p>footsteps and I believe the library has been a big part of that. We recently started home schooling and the library has been an amazing resource for learning materials. I honestly cannot imagine life without the OKC Metropolitan Library System. Well maybe I can imagine but it's sad, so I'll choose not to.</p>
Rosalinda	Southern Oaks Library	<p>I will be honest and say that it was a while that I hadn't went to the library, until my son entered the second graded and needed books to read. I recalled I had a library card and we moved close to Southern Oaks Library. It has been very convenient to go and checkout books for him to read and enhance his reading. This year I decided to take college course and I have used the library for studying also. The kids video selection is also get for my toddler that enjoys seeing Dora the Explorer. I didn't realize how beneficial the library was until I had my kids and being able to borrow books instead of buying that I know once they read them the wont pick them up again.</p>
	Luther Library	<p>The library has impacted my life in many ways by showing me how nice the Liberians are when you need help, how safe a place can be no matter the age you are, and everyday I go to the library I always find something new to read. But, overall the library has shown me that you a place to be safe and that people are really nice and that leaves an impact on my life.</p>
Andrea	Northwest Library	<p>Our family has been a bunch of "library junkies" since our oldest child was old enough to enjoy the library about 17 years ago. We have been avid readers and enjoyed all that the library has to offer. My youngest daughter has enjoyed books, but her reading never quite took off. She is almost 11 years old and was recently diagnosed with slow visual processing and dyslexia. Since her diagnosis, we took a different approach to reading. She still works through all the beginning readers, and has checked out almost every reader our library has to offer. Our new approach is exposing her to great literature through books on CDs and Playaways. She has experienced authors that she would not get to enjoy through reading. She has listed to several of Ronald Dahl's works, the entire Chronicles of Narnia series, and J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit. We could not keep up with her voracious appetite for books on our own. The Metro Library is now opening up new possibilities for her. Thank you for being a source of enjoyment to all of my family!</p>
Katrina	Almonte Library	<p>well I should start at the beginning. My name is Katrina and I have gone to the library all my life. There were four of us in my home but that is where normal ends. I grew up in a tiny home in a room I shared with my little sister who had reading problems most of her childhood.</p> <p>Mom and me use to read books from the library with her to help her improve. We grew up very dirt poor like most kids from our hood. We're gangs and break ends were the normal. It didn't help home wasn't always a happy place see my dad was a good man with a drinking problem. The library was my happiness. I could get lost in the rows of books for hours. I use to pretend that I worked there and would help people find books. The library was where I bonded with my mom and sister. It was a treat when we got to go. The library was where I would find my escape I could pick up a book a go on a adventure or fall in love or even solve a case or murder.</p> <p>My family use to help every year with food when there would be a food drive. I always loved the little fair that use to have you guys have let me see Disney on ice more than once. Which would never have happened without the support you give your community. I held a snake for the first time in the capital hill one. Even if I not able to win I</p>

		would like to say thank you from a poor sad little girl who the library and their magical books for saving my life and making my sisters better. She reads all the time now thanks to you. So thank you from just one fan in your large community.
Bill	Edmond Library	Growing up in a small town in Ohio I have memories of our weekly trip to the library. My mother would put me in the little red wagon and off we would go. That library was upstairs over the A&P store. Those steps were a real challenge for a 3 year old. Mom was a reader and I just inherited the habit spending time with her. Books have always been an important part of my life, both for entertainment and for information. To this day reading is a part of my daily life. Sometimes I have 3 or 4 books going at the same time. Thanks to Mom for getting me started and to every member of every library board of every library I have had the privilege to visit.
Dana	Edmond Library	My husband and I were asked by our 5 year old to be home schooled. Needless to say that request was terrifying - what resources would we need and use. The curriculum we chose had an extensive booklist that required a great library system. We invested in a yearly membership and have never been disappointed - except when I fail to renew all our books. We love the metro system. Thank you for all of your hard work.
Ashley	Belle Isle Library	I've always loved reading. The library is a special place to me because my mom would always bring me there as a little girl. Now as a mother I like to bring my little girl to thee same library. Every time we walk through the doors and into the children's area I get the same nostalgic feeling. I'm so thanjkful tom have a fun, safe, and free thing to enjoy weekly with my daughter !
Marilyn	Edmond Library	When i was a child in th 1960s, Mom would take us to the book mobile at the Village OK fire station. I love the smell and all the books. When my son was young in the 1980s i would take him to the book mobile near his grade school in Spring TX. Then later we would go to the library in The Woodlands TX. And now on- line i listen to library books on my phone and take my Grandkids to the Edmond OK library. The library has always been a huge part of my family's life!
	Choctaw Library	I love reading and the library has opened so many doors for me. It opens any worlds and allows me to continue to grow and learn and discover the love for so many new things. I love the library and what it offers me and so many others. The opportunity to love, to discover, to live.
Laura	Northwest Library	<p>When I was a child the library wasn't nearly the place that it has become today. It was staid and very quiet with a borrowing limit of one book per person. The books were mostly hard backs, out of date and very well used. The place smelled of mildew and damp wool coats. Today, the library that my children know it a far different place. The seemingly limitless quantity of reading material, bright modern décor, lots of computers and a borrowing quantity that encourages copious reading.</p> <p>My daughter borrows 25 fiction books at a time and reads all of them just in time for another trip to reload her bedside table. My son borrows books about cooking, languages, computer programing, war history. We could never afford the amount of books that it would take to keep my children fed with words and stories and</p>

		<p>information. Both my children were early readers and their love of reading has doubtlessly aided their success at school. Thanks to the Library reading is a habit that can be maintained, developed and nurtured. For me and my ever changing interests, the library provides a consistent resource to find the information I'm after that week. The library also provided me with an introduction to the Therapy work I did with my dog. After seeing a canine and her partner "Reading to Kids", I subsequently contacted the group and became a volunteer with HALO with my furry partner Figgie.</p> <p>We volunteered at the hospital, a library and a school before I retired her this year. So, in closing, the Library has fulfilled many a purpose for me and I believe that the community at large is grateful and richer for it. Keep up the great work!</p>
Dawn	Belle Isle Library	<p>The school library was my favorite place to check out books when I was young. First, I started taking home Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and other girly fairytales. Then, I graduated to Misty, of Chincoteague, Stormy, and other horse stories that spoke to my heart. I have been a voracious reader all my life. I normally check-out 3-4 books every time I visit the library, and I also download material on my kindle. I enjoy the large print section, and the new releases, but I return to my old favorite authors just for fun. When I retire from OKCPS, I often think my dream job would be working at Belle Isle Library or in a local bookstore. Every night I read while soaking in the tub, everyone should try it.</p>
Timothy	Southern Oaks Library	<p>When I was a child, my mother would take us to the library each summer to enroll in the summer reading program. Those summers spent reading as many books as I could, helped me to develop a love of English as an adult. I still remember the name of first books series I read during the program: Chet Gecko, Detective. I credit the weekly trips to the Southern Oaks location for my decision to major in English in college.</p>
Sandy	Midwest City Library	<p>When I was a small child, I couldn't wait to start kindergarten so that I could learn to read. You see, my older sister and brother would read the Sunday comics and laugh about them but then wouldn't read them to me. This was one of the many ways they loved to tease their little sister. I was determined to learn to read so that I could laugh while reading the Sunday comics, too.</p> <p>Upon mastering the skill of reading, my mom would take me to the Del City Library and allow me to check out the same amount of books that equaled my age. So when I was 6, I could get six books..7 years old, I could check out 7 books, etc. I always looked forward to going to the library. It was always quiet and cool especially on those hot summer days. It also had a comforting smell to it, one of books, I suppose. After checking out my books, I couldn't wait to get home and start reading them.</p> <p>The Del City Library helped develop my love of reading by providing a comfortable, quiet, cool and welcoming place to go. I continued utilizing the library to work on school projects and book reports through high school. Now as an adult, I still enjoy going to the library. I still visit the Del Library and each time I enter the doors, a host of happy and comfortable memories come to mind.</p>

	Harrah Library	The library helped improve my daughter's life. When she started school, she talked very fast and was hard to understand. Due to her speech she had a hard time at school. The other kids made fun of her and she started to dislike going to school. She was taking speech at school , but was not improving very fast. The books at the library gave her a place to escape . She has always loved to read and by reading out loud to her family it improved her speech. She no longer takes speech classes and she has no trouble making friends. We still enjoy our library almost weekly.
	Warr Acres Library	I am a homeschooling mom. My kids have grown up in the library. When my oldest was 2 we went once a week on story night to listen to stories, pick up books, and play. This was one of the highlights of the week. As our family has grown it is harder to get all six kiddos out weekly, but we order books and pick them up weekly so that we can still read many great books. The kids hit me at the door to see what books I have picked for them and the bigger kids love going with me to pick up there books of choice. When the littles get a chance to go to the library, which is about once a month, they are thrilled. Thank you for having so many wonderful books, for convenient ordering and pick up. I couldn't homeschool the way I do without the library.
Jack	Village Library	I love Village Library. It gives me purpose every day. I call it my job. I tell my wife at 8:45 every morning, "I'm going to work now." It's a fun job. I walk in and know Beverly, Knyok, Cindy, Mary Jane, Linda, Van, Mark and all the others. They all are so friendly. They greet me by name and make me feel so welcome. I read the morning paper and do a little computering. Where else can you read the Saturday Evening Post, National Geographic . and so many others? Thank you Village Library for being my home away from home. When I get up in the morning I really look forward to going to work. What a great job. The pay is great. Smiles, thankyou,. how are you doing are reward enough. I can't say enough good things about my Village.
Lindsey	Village Library	How do I begin to express my love and appreciation for Sally Gray , Children's Librarian, at the Village Library! Sally has made going to the library much more fun! We love her story times, her love for all children, not just my own, and love of all books. We appreciate everyone at the Village Library, but especially, Sally. She has turned my children into knowing the library is a fun place for wonderful books! Thank you! Lindsey Evans
Paula	Northwest Library	My family and I were just getting back from overseas deployment with the US Army and we were without a job. I took my 3 kids on regular outings to the Warr Acres library to "shop" for books and entertainment. My kids all grew up loving the adventures they had through reading books and going to Story Time to meet new friends. They and I had a blast learning and reading together. All 3 have finished college now and are enjoying successful careers. It wouldn't have happened if the library wasn't there for us to enjoy. Thank you for such wonderful work each of you do for our community.
Monica	Southern Oaks Library	My son grew up going to the library on a weekly basis. We attended many of the activities and especially the weekly story time when he was younger. We developed a really great relationship with the children's librarian we looked forward to that time each week. It was a big part of our homeschool. We attended the program for 4 years and the library became a part of his life. We don't attend many programs anymore because life is busier, but we still enjoy

		hanging out at the library when we get the chance, and his week doesn't feel complete if we don't have a weekly visit to the library.
Kari	Warr Acres Library	<p>The public library has always been a large part of my life. As an emerging reader my mother would take me to the Cheyenne Public Library in Cheyenne, Wyoming where we would check out Raggedy Ann and Andy books to read before bed. I eventually graduated to longer, chapter books. I still remember my first biography and other non-fiction books I read. We participated in story time and other library activities. I have fond memories of that library. As I grew up my use of the library changed somewhat as I decided I wanted to own the books I read. In high school I did not frequent the library as much as I should have but always found myself in my "happy place" if I did happen to step into one.</p> <p>In college and my adult life I have come back to the library. I spent hours upon hours studying at the Edmond Low Library at OSU and once I graduated and decided to attend Library School myself, I made libraries a part of my daily life. Now not only do I work in a School Library, but I am an avid user of the Warr Acres Public Library. I get the majority of my reading material through the library now and bring my kids every two weeks for check out and activities. Libraries are amazing resources in our communities. They provide so much more than books and I am so thankful to have access to a great system like the Metropolitan Library System!</p>
Megan	Del City Library	I am doing some early learning lessons with my 3 year old and had a booklist, so I decided to make the library a part of our routine! It felt awesome to return a dozen books and know we had read all of them multiple times in the past 2 weeks. Thank you for keeping a big collection of books ready for our new adventures in learning!
Neil	Northwest Library	I graduated from school a long, long time ago. It was a cause for celebration. I relished the idea of the release from regimented learning and the annoying need to stay put and seated in those uncushioned classroom desk chairs. I recently celebrated my 64th birthday. Guess what? Learning never ends! My public library is a source, day-in and day-out, of knowledge. The library computers and books grant me easy access to a huge cornucopia of information about anything and everything. Just because I am no longer in the confined space of some classroom somewhere, that does not necessarily mean that I have extinguished my curiosity about the world around me. I especially enjoy reading nonfiction books about the indigenous peoples of this part of the country in the mid-1800's. Books about adventure travel are also "my cup 'o tea"; they give me the unique opportunity to go to challenging and remote places in an "armchair" mode. Learning is an enjoyable adventure. My public library facilitates that.
Dr. Marcy	Edmond Library	Growing up in Louisiana, I remember the excitement when I would see the Bookmobile drive up! Our local library would stock up the Bookmobile and travel around the parish encouraging children to read. I can still vividly smell the wonderful fragrance of library books that we would experience when the librarian would open the door for us to enter the Bookmobile. As a parent, I have worked very hard to instill the love of reading in my young sons. I am thankful they appreciate and respect a great book. They have enjoyed many summers participating in summer reading adventures at our local libraries in Louisiana. Since we recently moved to Edmond, the highlight of their Fall break was obtaining a Metropolitan Library card. We visited not only one but two libraries with a total of three

		visits in 5 days! My boys are anxious to uncover every corner of your beautiful facilities. As a parent, I enjoyed watching my boys while once again taking in that wonderful fragrance found between the covers of a good book.
	Harrah Library	The metropolitan library changed my life drastically. I now know how to write and read better than i was in 4th grade . I also know how to speak English better too. I like how the library has lots of books that everyone can read. The books over there are very interesting and fun to read.
Steven	Southern Oaks Library	I have always been a voracious reader, and my mother and grandmother were both interested in writing. Due in part to their encouragement and my grandmother's former profession as a teacher, I learned to read at an early age, and took Dr. Seuss books to read to class in kindergarten. I spent many of my childhood summers at my grandmother's house, and Southern Oaks was always a pleasant diversion. I remember coming out many times with books stacked up to my chin, and during the summer reading programs, I would always reach the highest tier of prizes. Other libraries also benefited me, as we lived in Edmond, and I went to school near Belle Isle, Warr Acres, and a few more I can't recall at the moment. I still enjoy visiting the library whenever I can, as I can't afford to buy many books at the moment. I have a habit of rereading series whenever a new book comes out, so I enjoy having the older books of a series available. Over the years, the library has exposed me to many now-favorite authors that I might not have discovered otherwise; not only due to browsing the shelves, but also from the recommendations of the reference librarians.